(d) if so, to what extent the plan would curb activities of terrorists and their illegal entry into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The present Govt. formulated an action plan aimed at securing conditions on the ground and a suitable law and order environment to facilitate the interplay of democratic forces. It included *inter-alia* steps to improve the civil face of administration, more effective steps to prevent infiltration and smuggling, to effectively deal with the terrorists and to remove the irritants to the psyche of people. It also envisaged holding of all party meetings and rallies. Action has been initiated on the various points.

(d) It is expected that these measures when fully implemented will check terrorist activities and create an atmosphere congenial for finding a solution to the problem.

**Training of Kashmiri youths**

273. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has trained thousands of Kashmiri youths in use of arms and in subversive activities;

(b) whether the trained Kashmiri youths now intend to sneak into India;

(c) whether Government has any reports in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The fact of a large number of youths being trained in Pakistan with the intention of being infiltrated back into the Valley has been borne out by the interrogation of the arrested militants. The security arrangements along the Line of Control and the international border in J&K has been further tightened and Intelligence set-up beefed up. Constant review and close vigil is being maintained to check attempts of infiltration/exfiltration.

**Fire at Cochin Port**

274. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at Cochin Port during the month of July in which two boats were totally gutted and four of its crew members are feared drowned;

(b) if so. the details of the fire incident;

(c) the causes of the fire and expected loss thereof and whether any responsibility has been fixed; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

**Statement**

(b) The fire broke out in the Ernakulam Channel of the Cochin backwaters at about 0015 hrs.. on 22-7-90 near the Northern end of the Willingdon island between the Cochin Oil Terminal and Ernakulam wharf. Four crew members of the two private boats engaged by the Port for transporting staff died. Two persons fishing in the area were also injured and were hospitalised. One of them succumbed to injuries after a few days. A good portion of the electrical cables laid in the terminal was also charred and damaged.

(c) As per the report of the enquiry team sent by Government the source of fuel for fire is naptha which leaked into the ballast tank from the cargo tanks and discharged into the channel by the ship while deballasting. The amount of loss

incurred as a result of the fire to the Port installation is estimated to be in the region of about Rs. 15 lakhs. Enquiry report has just been received and the question of fixing responsibility is being examined.

(d) The procedures for enforcing prevention of pollution and fire fighting are being further tightened in order to ensure that the port remains fully prepared at all times to meet any such accident.

**Complaint registered against VHP in Delhi**

275. SHRI VITHAL BHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a complaint has been registered against the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Delhi for instigating speeches delivered by them;

(b) if so, what are the details of the complaint registered by the police against the leaders of the V.H.P. in Delhi;

(c) what are the names of the persons of the V.H.P. who are figure in the FIR; and

(d) whether any charge-sheet has been submitted by the Police against the leaders of the V.H.P., if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) According to Delhi Police, some V.H.P. leaders and others has raised objectionable slogans and made inflammatory speeches. As a sequel to this, case FIR No. 139 dated 15-7-90 u/s 153-A/295-P. Police Station, Town Hall, FIR No. 152/90 u/s 295-A/153-A IPC Police Station Keshav Puram and FIR No. 215 dated 25-6-90 u/s 153-A/295-A IPC Police Station Parliament Street, New Delhi, have been registered against them.

(d) No, Sir.

**Pending applications for telephone connection in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot**

276. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of applications are pending for telephone connection in the city of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending in all these four cities for telephone connection till date; and

(c) by when these applicants are likely to be provided telephone connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The number of applicants who are in the waiting list as on 30-6-90 is as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 28125 |
| Vadodara | 22241 |
| Rajkot | 4861 |
| Surat | 36192 |

(c) These applicants are likely to be provided with telephone connections progressively during 8th plan period (1990-95).

**Need of new National Highways**

277. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for construction of some more National Highways due to increasing frequency of vehicles and traffic in some of the National Highways for diversion of traffic destined for small distances;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;